



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**MODERN TREATMENT—A Guide for General Practice.** By 53 authors; edited by Austin Smith, M.D., editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*; and Paul L. Wermer, M.D., Secretary, Committee on Research, American Medical Association. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., New York. 1146 pages, \$20.00.

The intention of this book is to provide the general practitioner with a useful and authoritative guide to the common clinical problems in therapy. In each discussion, attention is focused on the most effective treatment for the condition in the judgment of its author and each chapter is intended to be sufficiently complete to stand by itself. The editors have attempted "to take account of all factors and provide sufficient information to enable the practitioner to adapt the best available treatment to the needs of each individual patient."

A few commonly encountered conditions such as alcoholism and drug addiction have been omitted deliberately. The reason given is that "much more experience is needed to permit satisfactory evaluation of therapeutic and social measures now under investigation." The reviewer cannot agree with either the rationale or the reasoning behind this statement. The practitioner needs help in treating such conditions particularly.

The arrangement of the book seems somewhat haphazard. It starts out properly with several general subjects. It proceeds with various infections in chapters 6 to 9. However, syphilis and other venereal diseases do not appear until chapters 39 and 40, where they are sandwiched between dermatologic diseases and geriatrics! Cardiovascular diseases are similarly presented with the blood diseases appearing in their midst.

The book is slanted at the general practitioner and will undoubtedly be useful to him as a general guide. For actual details of therapy, however, he will often have to consult other references.

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**DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF COMMON DISEASES OF THE EYEGROUND.** Paul Tower, M.D., Los Angeles. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1953. 243 pages, \$10.00.

The book, which is intended for the student or specialist of ophthalmology, is also advocated for the general practitioner, the internist, neurologist and other specialists. It is divided into eight parts, including the normal fundus; congenital anomalies; diseases of the retina; diseases of the choroid; diseases of the macula; glaucoma; diseases of the optic nerve, and myopia.

The text is well organized, concise, and covers the literature with emphasis on the more important articles. Each of the main divisions is subdivided into topics and at the end of each topic is a "literature discussion" which adds a good deal to the book.

The book is illustrated by approximately 130 black and white fundus photographs which the author says are superior to the color renditions available, stressing that diagnosis of fundus conditions should be primarily based on shape, size, and distribution of lesions rather than on color.

However, on the whole the black and white illustrations are not too satisfactory. For example, in discussing physiological and glaucomatous cupping it would be very difficult for the student to see the difference in the figures 6 and 7. Another example: the color of the fundus in choroideremia that is so characteristic is entirely lost in the black and white reproduction. It seems too bad that color was not used or if this is prohibitive that good black and white line tracings were not made of the original photographs.

The book has an excellent index and the format is good with very readable printing on good grade paper. The book is to be recommended as a manual on ophthalmology to be used in conjunction with some of the fundus atlases that are available.

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**RORSCHACH INTERPRETATION: ADVANCED TECHNIQUE.** Leslie Phillips, Ph.D., Director of Psychological Research, Worcester State Hospital; Associate Professor of Psychology, Clark University, Worcester; and Joseph G. Smith, Ph.D., Research Assistant, Commission on Human Resources and Advanced Training, Washington, D.C. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1953. 385 pages, \$8.75.

As the title implies, this book is an advanced text on Rorschach's ink blot test, and presumes some familiarity with other work, including that of H. Rorschach himself. This is unfortunate for the general medical reader, because in many respects this book is richer in content and demonstrates current practice better than other test manuals. The author draws on extensive clinical experience, his own and that of others, in suggesting the interpretive significance of various kinds of responses to the ink blots. Experimental evidence is not cited (nor can it be—it doesn't exist) for many of the statements made. Used in the manner the author illustrates with case material, the Rorschach measures many aspects of personality, perhaps too many. However, this reviewer's impression is that more interpretations of the kind suggested here would be correct than incorrect, i.e., in agreement with facts about personality and psychiatric disorders obtained by other methods. A batting average of much more than .500 is excellent in a field where the basic variables are as resistant to definition as they are in psychiatry.

The book is intended for specialists and many psychiatrists will read it with interest and be impressed with its complexity. Its primary usefulness will be for persons already familiar with the method; their interpretations of Rorschach protocols will be enriched by careful study of the book.

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**EPIDEMICS IN COLONIAL AMERICA.** John Duffy. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, La., 1953. 274 pages, \$4.50.

This is a detailed record of outbreaks of communicable disease from the founding of the North American colonies up to the time of the Revolution. "America" is used in the restricted sense, except for a few references to events in